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**PATENT**  
**Attorney Docket 17616-705**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of )  
Hugh R. Sharkey, et al. ) Group Art Unit: 3739  
Serial No.: 08/714,987 ) Examiner: D. Shay  
Filed: September 17, 1996 )  
Title: Method and Apparatus for Controlled )  
Contraction of Soft Tissue )

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**REPLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.111**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated January 31, 2000. In response to the Office Action, please amend the above-identified application under 37 CFR 1.115 as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend claims 1-29 as follows:

1. (Amended) An apparatus for effecting a change in at least a portion of a selected site of a collagen containing tissue that is adjacent to a fluid medium, comprising: